

Mr R Mellor
C/o Programme Officer
PO Services
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By Email.

24th February 2017.

Dear Mr Mellor

Re: Responses to MBC's Paper 'Inspector's Interim Findings – additional employment matters' (ED118).

Thank you for giving the Council the opportunity to review the responses to the Council's paper on additional employment matters (ED118).

To a large extent the submissions repeat issues that have been raised in the respondents' earlier written submissions to the Examination. They also raise matters which have been discussed in full in the hearings themselves. In these circumstances, the Council has nothing further to add. There is however a small number of select points which merit a response and these are set out below.

Co-ordinating Group

The Group's submission raises concerns about increased commuting across local authority boundaries within the sub region and in/out of the sub-region. This concern does not support an argument not to allocate sufficient employment land in Maidstone borough. In fact the reverse is the case; making adequate employment land provision of the right type in Maidstone borough, which is what the Local Plan does, is more likely to enable people to both live and work in the borough.

CPRE

CPRE's submission proposes that the reduction in the OAN to 17,660 will lead to a consequential reduction in the amount of additional B class employment land needed. The Council's document ED118 shows for 18,560 dwellings, and assuming 2011 commuting rates, that there would be 1,306 more workers than jobs available by 2031. The effect of the reduction in the OAN would be to reduce this 'over-supply' of workers; it would not reduce the employment land requirement in the way proposed by the CPRE and as reflected in Appendix A of the CRPE submission.

Yours Sincerely

R. L. Jarman

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